MARVEL LEGACY
THANOS WINS PART 1
13
THANOS
CATES
SHAW
FABELA

IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSE, WITH ALL OF ITS ENDLESS WONDER AND POWER, THERE EXIST A SELECT FEW WHO ARE WIDELY AGREED UPON--BY THOSE WHO CALCULATE SUCH THINGS--TO BE THE MIGHTIEST BEINGS IN ALL OF EXISTENCE.
I AM VERY SURE YOU KNOW WHO THEY ARE.
HOWEVER, THERE IS SOMETHING INSIDE OF THESE CHAMPIONS THAT YOU DO NOT KNOW.
A SECRET TRUTH THAT EACH OF THEM CARRIES IN THE DARKEST AND MOST HIDDEN PARTS OF THEIR SOUL.
THE FEAR...THE CERTAINTY...THAT THEY WILL LOSE.
THAT SOMEDAY, DESPITE THEIR STRENGTH AND THEIR COURAGE... EVERYONE...AND EVERYTHING... WILL DIE.
AND IF YOU WERE TO ASK THESE GODS, THESE AVENGERS AND DESTROYERS... HOW THEY BELIEVE THIS MARVELOUS UNIVERSE OF OURS WILL ARRIVE AT THAT BLOODY AND INEVITABLE END?
WITH A TREMBLING VOICE, AND A HEAVY AND HONEST HEART...
...THEY WOULD ALL TELL YOU THE EXACT SAME THING...

THANOS WINS

A total obsession with power drives him to control the forces of the universe.

He is the Mad Titan. He is…Thanos.

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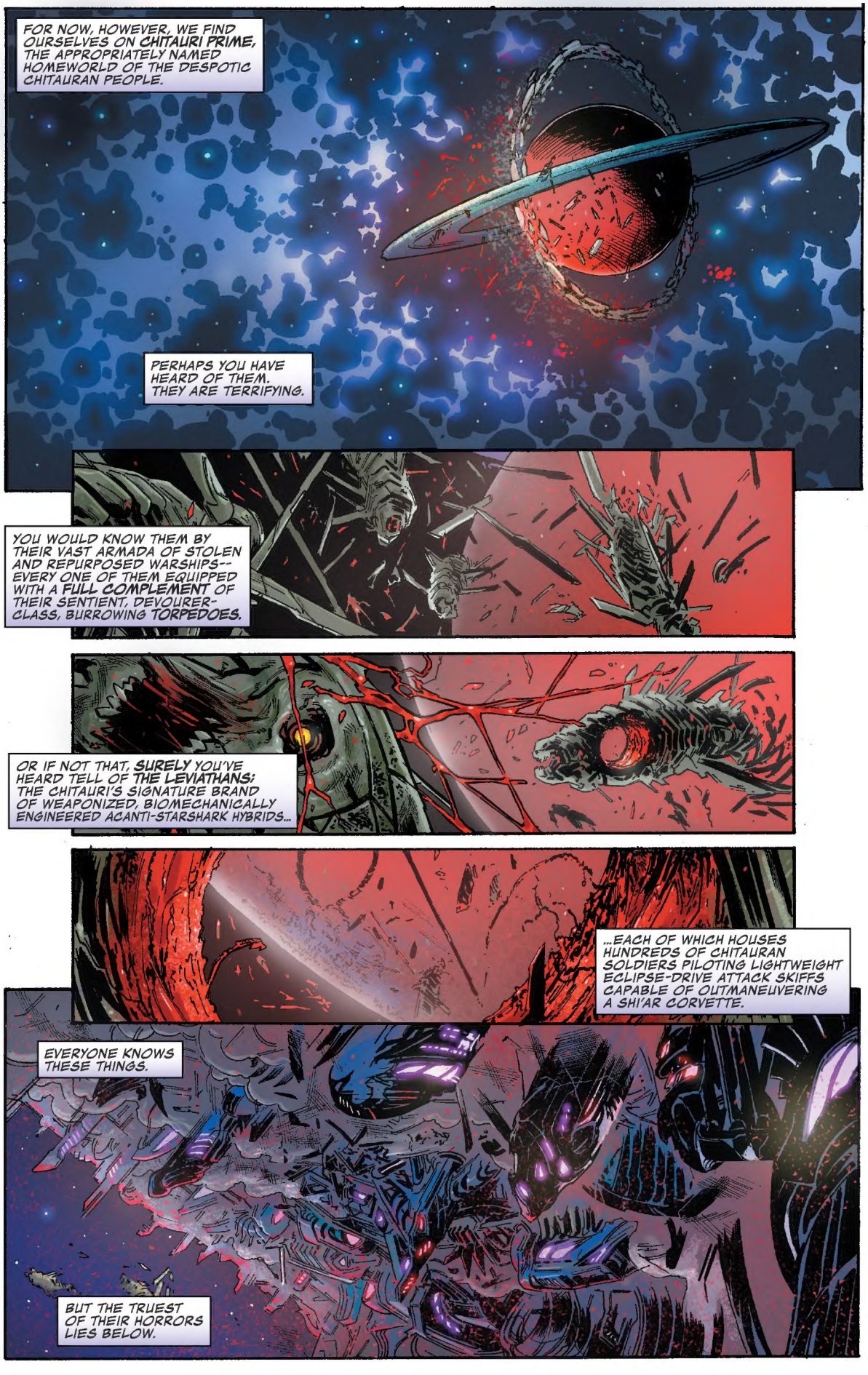

FOR NOW, HOWEVER, WE FIND OURSELVES ON CHITAURI PRIME, THE APPROPRIATELY NAMED HOMEWORLD OF THE DESPOTIC CHITAURAN PEOPLE.
PERHAPS YOU HAVE HEARD OF THEM. THEY ARE TERRIFYING.
YOU WOULD KNOW THEM BY THEIR VAST ARMADA OF STOLEN AND REPURPOSED WARSHIPS-- EVERY ONE OF THEM EQUIPPED WITH A FULL COMPLEMENT OF THEIR SENTIENT, DEVOURER-CLASS, BURROWING TORPEDOES.
OR IF NOT THAT, SURELY YOU'VE HEARD TELL OF THE LEVIATHANS; THE CHITAURI'S SIGNATURE BRAND OF WEAPONIZED, BIOMECHANICALLY ENGINEERED ACANTI-STARSHARK HYBRIDS...
...EACH OF WHICH HOUSES HUNDREDS OF CHITAURAN SOLDIERS PILOTING LIGHTWEIGHT ECLIPSE-DRIVE ATTACK SKIFFS CAPABLE OF OUTMANEUVERING A SHI'AR CORVETTE.
EVERYONE KNOWS THESE THINGS.
BUT THE TRUEST OF THEIR HORRORS LIES BELOW.

DUE TO ITS UNUSUAL AND ERRATIC ORBIT, THE SURFACE OF CHITAURI PRIME IS SEVERAL HUNDRED DEGREES BELOW FREEZING FOR YEARS AT A TIME.
THE CHITAURI DO NOT SEEM TO MIND.
IN FACT, DURING THEIR INFAMOUS GLADIATORIAL CONTESTS, THE BLOOD SPRAY THAT ERUPTS FROM THE VARIOUS ENSLAVED COMBATANTS WILL OFTEN FREEZE IN MIDAIR...
...CREATING SMALL FLURRIES OF BEAUTIFUL RED SNOWFLAKES.
THE TINY BUNDLES OF **WAR SNOW**, AS THEY CALL IT, ARE COLLECTED AND GIVEN TO THE CHITAURAN CHILDREN TO EAT...
...A FITTING FIRST STEP ON THEIR PATH TO JOINING AN ANCIENT LINE OF WARRIOR **BUTCHERS** THAT HAVE CARVED THE UNCONQUERABLE NAME OF **CHITAURI PRIME** ACROSS THE STARS FOR HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS.

THANOS HAD ALL BUT FORGOTTEN THE CHITAURI UNTIL HE HAPPENED UPON THEIR PLANET FIVE HOURS AGO.

WHO IS YOUR KING?
I AM. I AM THE KING, LORD THANOS...
LIAR.
NO...NO, I SWEAR! PLEASE, I CAN GIVE YOU--
CRSH
KINGS DO NOT BEG.
THUS FAR, HE IS RATHER UNIMPRESSED.

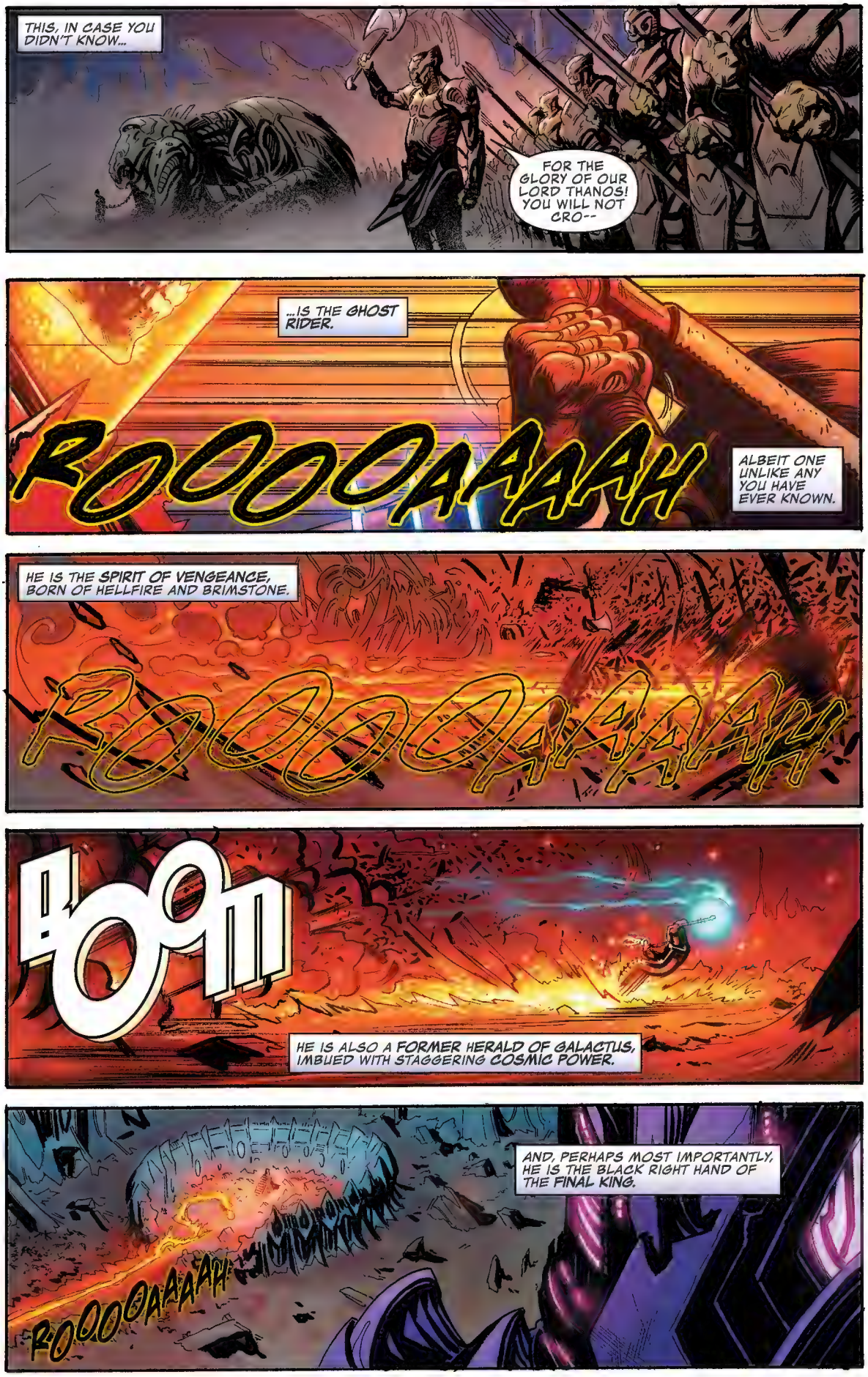
THANOS HAD COME TO THIS PLANET IN HOPES OF A FIGHT. A CHALLENGE. IN LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS, HE HAD FOUND HIMSELF GREATLY IN NEED OF SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL TO BREAK.
HE WILL SETTLE, HE SUPPOSES, FOR A NEW THRONE...
THA-NOS! THA-NOS! THA-NOS!
...AND AN ARMY.
THA-NOS! THA-NOS! THA-NOS!

LORD THANOS, I AM--
NO ONE.
AH...YES...IF IT PLEASES YOU, MY LORD...
NO ONE WOULD LIKE LORD THANOS TO KNOW THAT THE LEVIATHAN FRIGATES, THE WARSHIPS AND THE SOLDIERS YOU WERE MERCIFUL ENOUGH TO LET LIVE ARE NOW UNDER YOUR FULL AND UNCONTESTED COMMAND.
AT LAST...THE GLORY.
YOU...AH, YOU, OF COURSE, HAVE OUR COMPLETE SURRENDER.
AND YET I AM STILL TORTURED BY YOUR CLUCKING TONGUE.
WELL, AH, MY LORD, I WAS...CURIOUS IF--AAGH!
WHAT?!
KRAK
...WHAT IN THE HELL DO YOU WANT?!
NO ONE... WONDERED...IF PERHAPS...
CRK

...YOU WOULD TELL YOUR GOD...TO STOP KILLING US?
MY WHAT?
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND. DO...DO YOU NOT KNOW?
LORD THANOS, IT--IT APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE...IT'S BEEN BURNING THROUGH OUR DEFENSES FASTER THAN OUR SYSTEMS CAN TRACK... FASTER THAN... EVEN YOU...
IT MOVES LIKE...LIKE THE PHOENIX...WE... WE ASSUMED THAT--
MY LORD?
MY LORD...ARE YOU SMILING?
HE IS.

BECAUSE AS COSMIC FIRE BURNS AND HOWLS IN THE ATMOSPHERE ABOVE...
...THE RED SNOW TURNS TO RAIN...
...AND AS IT FALLS, IT BRINGS WITH IT A FAMILIAR AND BEAUTIFUL SCENT.
AND SO, YES, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME...THANOS SMILES.
FOR WHATEVER THIS CREATURE IS THAT ROARS THROUGH THE STARS TOWARD HIM...

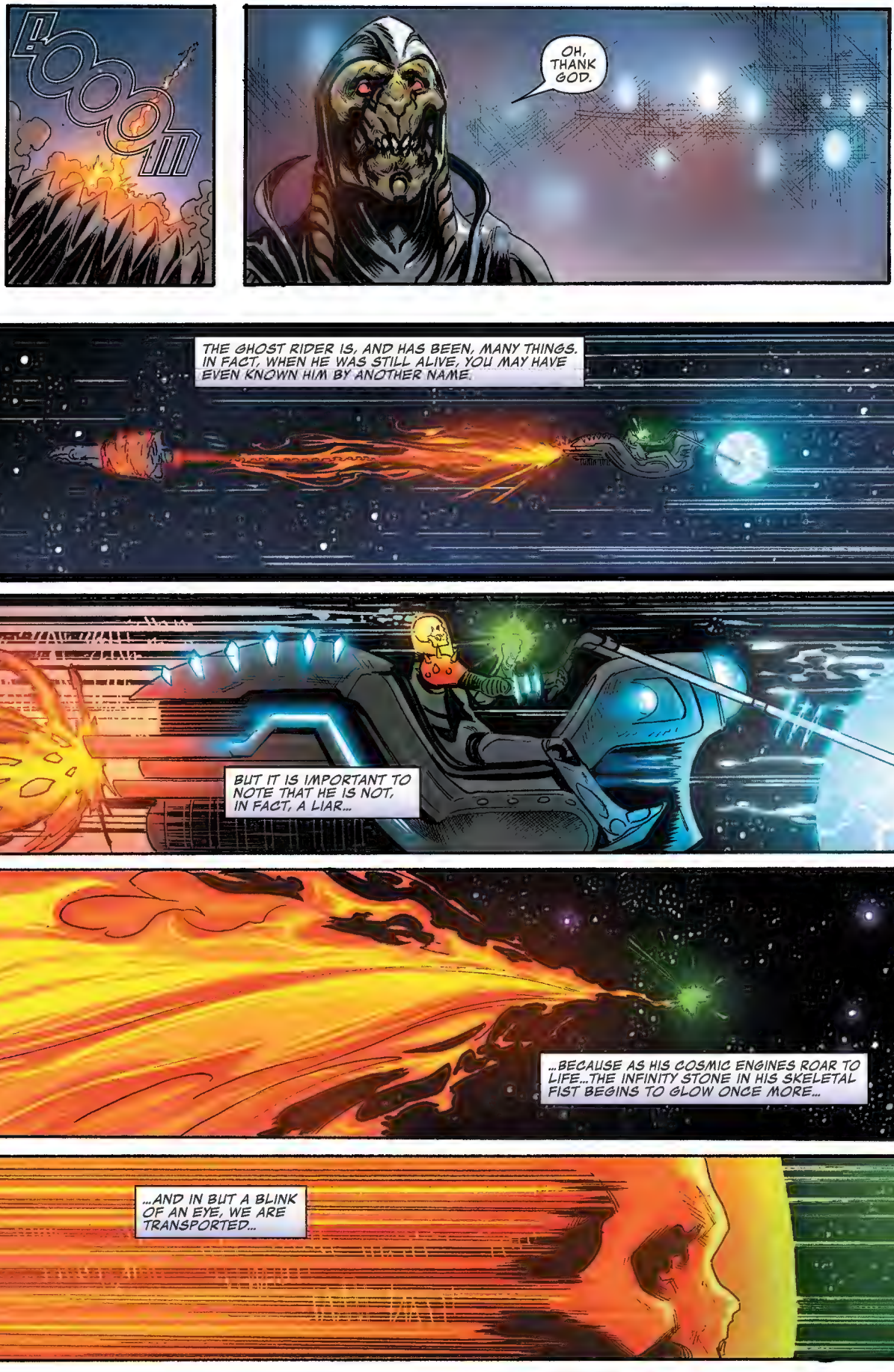
...IT REEKS OF DEATH.
HAHAHA!
RATATATATA
BOOOM
ROOOOAAAAH


THIS, IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW...
FOR THE GLORY OF OUR LORD THANOS! YOU WILL NOT CRO--
...IS THE GHOST RIDER.
ROOOAAAH
ALBEIT ONE UNLIKE ANY YOU HAVE EVER KNOWN.
HE IS THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE, BORN OF HELLFIRE AND BRIMSTONE.
ROOOAAAH
BOOM
HE IS ALSO A FORMER HERALD OF GALACTUS, IMBUED WITH STAGGERING COSMIC POWER.
AND, PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY, HE IS THE BLACK RIGHT HAND OF THE FINAL KING.
ROOOOAAAAH

IF THAT LAST TITLE DOESN'T MEAN MUCH TO YOU, WORRY NOT.
IT WILL SOON MEAN A GREAT DEAL.
IN SHORT, IT MEANS HE IS FROM THE FUTURE.
HEY!
I SHOULD ALSO MENTION HE IS QUITE INSANE.
I'M, UH... I'M GONNA NEED YOU TO COME WITH ME, OKAY, PAL?
PAT PAT

AH, @$%&. YOU'RE GONNA WANT TO FIGHT, HUH?
ALL RIGHT, NOW I ADMIT I CAME IN A LITTLE HOT WITH THE RAIN-OF-BLOOD THING, RIGHT? BUT LOOK, I'M JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS HERE, OKAY? I'M SUPPOSED TO BRING YOU IN, NOT--
YOU TELL MEPHISTO IF HE WISHES AN AUDIENCE WITH THANOS OF TITAN, HE SHOULD HAVE SENT--
MEPHISTO?
YOU ARE A RIDER. A PAWN OF HELL.
MAN, I AIN'T BEEN TO HELL IN FOREVER. NOW, HEY, COME ON...
JUST...BACK IT UP A LITTLE, YEAH? I KNOW YOU KINDA DEFAULT TO MURDERING PEOPLE WITH YOUR FISTS, BUT THAT AIN'T GONNA WORK HERE, OKAY?
AND, HONESTLY, IF I HAVE TO KILL YOU, IT'S GONNA @#$% UP THE WHOLE TIMELINE, AND I'LL HAVE TO--
BWAAAAHHH
DIE.

AGH!
ALL RIGHT, THIS ONE IS ON ME... I DIDN'T DO A GOOD JOB EXPLAINING THINGS...
FIRSTLY, THOSE CHAINS WERE FORGED FROM THE BONES OF CYTTORAK. SO DON'T HURT YOURSELF TRYING TO WIGGLE ABOUT.
SECONDLY...
...I HAVE A PIECE OF THE TIME STONE.
NO...
YEAH. SO, YOU WANNA @#$% AROUND AND START THROWIN' EYE LASERS?
I PAUSE TIME AND WRAP YOU IN CHAINS FORGED FROM THE BONES OF CYTTORAK.
NOW, THE TIME GEM AIN'T ALL IT USED TO BE... SO BEFORE I CAN OPEN A GATE TO WHERE WE NEED TO BE, I GOTTA CHARGE IT UP WITH THE OL' POWER COSMIC.
I'D TELL YOU TO HANG ON... BUT... WELL...

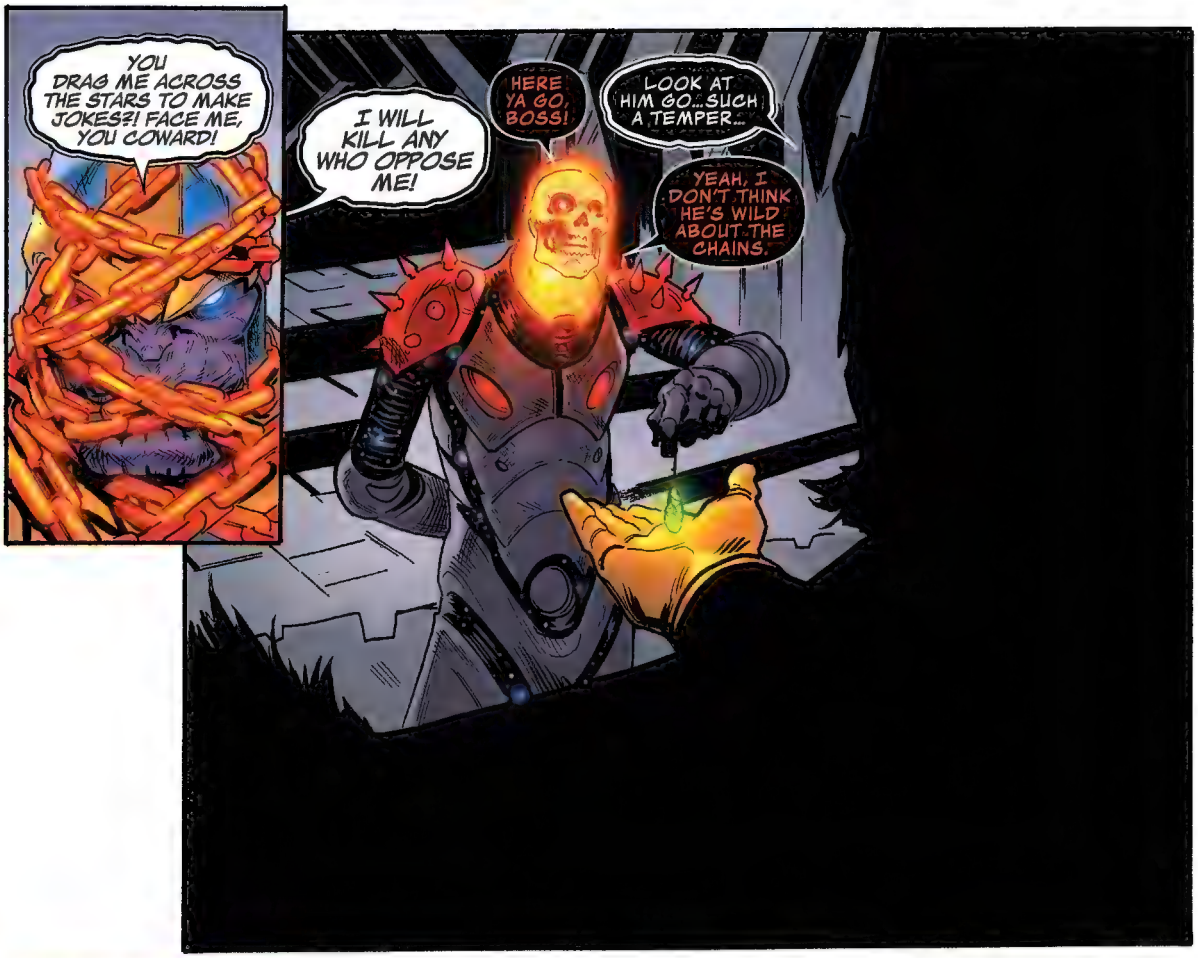

BOOM
OH, THANK GOD.
THE GHOST RIDER IS, AND HAS BEEN, MANY THINGS. IN FACT, WHEN HE WAS STILL ALIVE, YOU MAY HAVE EVEN KNOWN HIM BY ANOTHER NAME.
BUT IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT HE IS NOT, IN FACT, A LIAR...
...BECAUSE AS HIS COSMIC ENGINES ROAR TO LIFE...THE INFINITY STONE IN HIS SKELETAL FIST BEGINS TO GLOW ONCE MORE...
...AND IN BUT A BLINK OF AN EYE, WE ARE TRANSPORTED...

...TO THE INEVITABLE.

EARTH.

MILLIONS OF YEARS FROM NOW.

SKREEEECH
AGH!
YOU...
...YOU DO NOT WALK AWAY FROM ME!
DO YOU HEAR ME, RIDER?!
I DO. WEIRD, RIGHT?
NO EARS.


YOU DRAG ME ACROSS THE STARS TO MAKE JOKES?! FACE ME, YOU COWARD!
I WILL KILL ANY WHO OPPOSE ME!
HERE YA GO, BOSS!
LOOK AT HIM GO...SUCH A TEMPER...
YEAH, I DON'T THINK HE'S WILD ABOUT THE CHAINS.

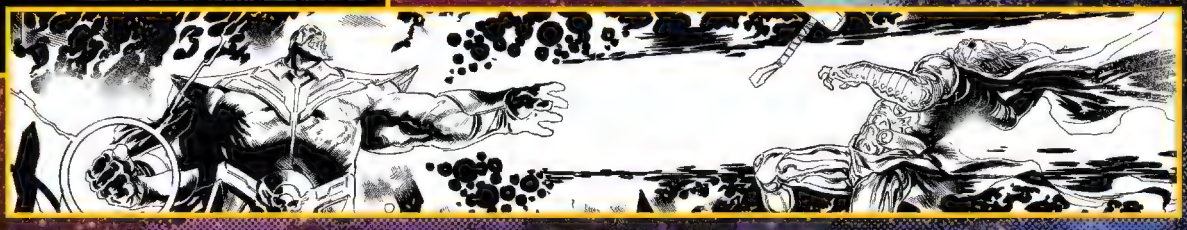
I AM THANOS!
HAHA! YES, YOU CERTAINLY ARE...
...BUT I AM AFRAID THERE IS NO ONE HERE TO OPPOSE YOU, BOY.
DO YOU SEE NOW?

YOU'VE ALREADY WON...
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE:

THE PAST...

...THE FUTURE...



...AND WHAT LIES BEYOND.

PLUS:
A BUDDING FRIENDSHIP?

THANOS #14

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A'LARS AND SUI-SAN. BOTH ETERNALS, A RACE OF SUPERHUMANS.
THEIR SON WAS BORN WITH THE DEVIANT SYNDROME, A GENETIC PREDISPOSITION IN ETERNALS.
A MUTATION.
AS A RESULT, THEIR CHILD POSSESSED GREAT POWER AT AN EARLY AGE.
IT WASN'T ENOUGH. HE CRAVED MORE POWER.
I'M SORRY, MOTHER.
HE HONED AND GREW HIS ABILITIES WITH MEDITATION AND BIONIC IMPLANTS.
WITH HIS GROWING POWER, HE BECAME...

...A CONQUEROR.
NOTHING STOOD IN HIS WAY. NOT HIS FAMILY...
...NOT EVEN DEATH INCARNATE.
WHEN HE MET DEATH, HE FELT LOVE FOR THE FIRST TIME.
AND SO, HE SOUGHT OUT MORE POWER IN ORDER TO WIN HER HEART AND ATTEMPT TO FILL HIS ENDLESS HUNGER.
HIS PURSUITS LED HIM ACROSS THE GALAXY...
...PITTING HIM AGAINST MANY FOES FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE GALAXY.
BUT NONE WERE A MATCH FOR HIS RUTHLESSNESS OR BRUTALITY. ESPECIALLY WHEN IT CAME TO...

...THE INFINITY GAUNTLET.
A WEAPON OF GOD-LIKE POWER THAT ALLOWS ITS WEARER TO DO ANYTHING IMAGINABLE.
BUT EVEN AFTER HE LOST IT...HIS THIRST PERSISTED.
ALL OF THE POWER HE SEEKS, ALL OF THE POWER HE WIELDS, ALL OF IT A MEANS TO A SIMPLE AND INEVITABLE END...
...EVERY LIVING THING IN THE UNIVERSE BENDING THEIR KNEES TO THEIR TRUE MASTER...
...THANOS!
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